



Mendocino District
PO Box 440
Mendocino, California 95460

April 22, 2007

Helene E. Chalfin
Jughandle Nature Center Education Director
P.O. Box 17
Caspar, CA 95420

Dear Ms. Chalfin

This is a letter of support for your Facility Site Enhancement, Education and Access grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy. The proposed project will benefit CA State Parks by the following:

- Improved and expanded facilities will allow more school groups and individuals to participate in outdoor educational programs enhancing environmental stewardship.
- Additional campsites along the coast will be a great asset in the summer season. We need campgrounds to refer campers to when we are full.
- Trail expansion and improvement will allow more access to Jughandle State Park.
- Interpretive signage along the trails will enhance visitor's knowledge when they enter the State Park.
- Removal of exotic species coincides with our efforts at Jughandle State Park.

Jughandle Creek Farm is a wonderful neighbor. For like CA State Parks they are committed to the health, education and inspiration of their visitors. We hope that Jughandle Creek Farm is successful in securing funding for this project. The visitors to CA State Parks will benefit from their improvements.

If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact me at 707-937-2507.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Murphy
Superintendent
Mendocino District



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889

416 N. Franklin St.

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Phone: (707) 961-2823

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ci.fort-bragg.ca.us

March 26, 2007

Karyn Gear
North Coast Program Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, Ca. 94612

Dear Ms. Gear:

The Fort Bragg City Council is writing in support of Jughandle Creek Nature Center's grant request to the Coastal Conservancy to improve its teaching facilities, trails and campground.

The proposed improvements to the center include yurt-style bunk cabins, and two alternative style counselor cabins, an outdoor teaching shelter and indoor classroom, a shower house and additional bathrooms all planned so that visiting schools can stay on a budget, and find shelter on bad weather days. Removal of dangerous trees in public use areas, increased interpretive signage, hiking trail upgrades to meet current ADA standards are also planned. All new construction will demonstrate green building techniques and sustainable living choices as a model for every visitor.

Hundreds of Fort Bragg school children, grades K-12 have benefited from the environmental education and hands-on restoration activities offered by Jughandle over the last 16 years. In addition schools, environmental organizations and other groups from throughout the region-about 2,000 people per year-visit the Nature Center annually for overnight visits, workshops and retreats. Jughandle offers interpretive activities about tidepools, ocean life, whale migration, redwood forest ecology, birds of the north coast, native plants, wildlife, watershed ecology and the Pygmy Forest Ecological staircase. All participants in these activities learn stewardship of coastal land and water resources. A native plant nursery at the site is a focus for teaching. Hands-on activities demonstrate restoration and revegetation using native plants. Watershed monitoring techniques are also taught. Jughandle maintains a lending library of science supplies, resource books and monitoring equipment which is shared with schools, community groups and watershed protection organizations on the coast.

Exhibit 2: Letters of Support

With the upcoming Eco-tourism conference in Fort Bragg sponsored by the Mendocino Land Trust, Jughandle will clearly be seen as a valuable community resource as a natural history center with affordable overnight lodging

The planned improvements to the Nature Center will benefit not only the local community but also the many region wide schools and other groups who utilize Jughandle as a low cost alternative for visiting the coast on overnight trips. We urge you to fully support Jughandle Creek Nature Center's proposal for facility upgrades as a wise investment in the future of the North Coast region.

Sincerely,



Doug Hammerstrom
Mayor



Dave Turner
Vice Mayor



Meg Courtney
Councilmember



Dan Gjerde
Councilmember



Jere Melo
Councilmember

California Native Plant Society

Dorothy King Young Chapter - P.O. Box 985 - Point Arena, CA 95468

March 22, 2007

Karyn Gear, North Coast Program Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, Ca. 94612

Dear Ms. Gear:

As President of the Dorothy King Young Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, I am writing to express our support for Jughandle Creek Nature Center's proposal to upgrade its education, trails, bathroom and sanitary facilities.

CNPS is familiar with Jughandle's long history of collaborative education/restoration activities with schools, organizations and stakeholders throughout the coast region. Participating students, K-12, are from the Mendocino, Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Laytonville, Ukiah and Anderson Valley districts. I collected seeds for a collaborative project at Point Arena Lighthouse where local students planted seedlings grown at Jughandle's nursery in one of the earliest projects. More than 7,500 students have participated in Jughandle's education projects since 1991.

On March 19th of this year CNPS joined with three other environmental organizations – the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society, Mendocino Land Trust, and Mendocino Area Parks Association – in voting to present Jughandle Education Director, Helene Chalfin, with the annual "Local Environmentalist Award". The award was made in honor of her dedication and perseverance in giving so many students and community groups a role in stewardship of coastal natural resources with hands on and watershed education activities.

The Nature Center, the hub of all of this activity, serves 800 to 1,000 local students a year with free environmental education. Jughandle also hosts about 2,000 overnight guests a year in the farmhouse, cabins or campground. Schools from throughout the region, environmental groups, agencies, family groups and individuals all utilize the nature center for overnight educational visits, workshops, retreats and gatherings.

The proposed improvements for an outdoor teaching shelter and indoor classroom, additional sanitary facilities, trail upgrades, yurt-style bunk cabins and alternative-style counselor cabins (cob or straw bale) would enable the Center to expand its services and strengthen its environmental message to the public. All improvements would demonstrate green construction techniques and sustainable choices to every visitor and guest.

Ongoing removal of invasive exotics and creation of a demonstration wetland garden highlighting rare plants are exciting aspects of this proposal which we fully support. I supplied a list of proposed rare plants for this to the site map designer.

CNPS strongly supports the Jughandle Nature Center proposal and will continue to support its successful environmental education activities teaching stewardship of coastal resources.

Sincerely



Lori Hubbart, Chapter President
Dorothy King Young Chapter, California Native Plant Society



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora



FORT BRAGG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent
Steven Lund

Board of Trustees
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312 South Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg, California 95437-4416

Telephone (707) 961-2850 Fax (707) 964-5002

March 6, 2007

Karyn Gear, North Coast Regional Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
13th Floor, 1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Jughandle Creek Nature Center

Dear Ms. Gear:

On behalf of Fort Bragg Unified School District, I am pleased to offer a letter of support for the Jughandle Creek Nature Center.

As Superintendent of the Fort Bragg Unified School District I fully support the Grant Application of Jughandle Creek Nature Center and strongly encourage your approval. An outdoor teaching shelter and indoor classroom are needed not only for special activities on multi-station field trips, but also for those days when the weather changes quickly. To save bus costs, most often two classes attend field trips on the same day. Forty students, their teachers, aides and several parents attend the field trips at once. More bathroom and hand washing facilities are needed to accommodate these large groups. The proposed trail improvements will greatly enhance the hikes and learning activities. The Nature Center's plan to model green building techniques and energy conservation features as part of the building project will serve to educate all visitors about sustainable living.

Beginning in 1993 with its introduction of the "Adopt A Watershed" curriculum to Mendocino County teachers and students, Jughandle Creek Nature Center has continued to provide classroom and field environmental education presentations to students throughout Mendocino County. In the Fort Bragg United School District, they have worked closely for more than 10 years with the entire student body of Redwood Elementary School (450 to 480 students per year), students from the Middle School and High School who are members of the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement Club (MESA) (30 - 50 students per year), and with students from several of our alternative education programs. Thus, hundreds of students from Fort Bragg Unified annually travel to Jughandle to learn and participate in activities at the native plant nursery, to hike the many trails, learn about plants, wildlife and forest ecosystems along with being exposed to many interesting facts about how our Native American predecessors made use of the ocean, land, and indigenous plants at this site.

This Grant Application, if funded, will provide essential support to perform much needed improvements to this environmental education center that will benefit not only the students and staff of our District, but all visitors to the center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven Lund", written over a light-colored background.

Steven Lund, Superintendent



REDWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mary K Champagne, Principal
Be kind; Be safe; Be responsible

324 S. Lincoln St. Ft. Bragg, CA. 95437 Tel: 707-961-2860 Fax: 707-961-4231 mchamp@mcoe.k12.ca.us

April 2, 2007

Karyn Gear
North Coast Program Manager
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Suite 1100
Oakland, Ca. 94612

Dear Ms. Gear:

This is a letter of verification and support for Jughandle Creek Nature Center. We understand that Jughandle is approaching the Coastal Conservancy for support in improving its campground, trails, bathroom and teaching facilities; including an outdoor teaching shelter with a stove for warmth as well as a new indoor classroom/science display room on the site.

As principal of Redwood Elementary School, I can say that our school is in full support of this proposal. These improvements would benefit Redwood School students and many others throughout the coastal districts. There are times when field trips are scheduled at Jughandle, but the weather turns. A heated indoor classroom or outdoor teaching shelter with a heat source would provide a workable solution as well as needed display space.

Beginning in 1994 Jughandle has involved Redwood Elementary School students and teachers in its Watersheds and Native Plants education project. Virtually all grade levels have taken part in field trips to Jughandle's facility or in environmental education projects or activities at various watersheds including Noyo River, Jughandle Creek and Glass Beach.

All field trips and classroom presentations have been free of charge to the school.

To save on bus transportation costs, two classes a day approximately 40 students plus their teachers, aides and several parents visit Jughandle on the same day. The need for more bathrooms and hand washing facilities at Jughandle becomes apparent. The proposed improvements to the hiking trails would also greatly enhance the site as an education center.

Pre and post field trip classroom presentations have been part of the services we have received from Jughandle staff naturalists and assistants they hired to mentor our students. For four years, Jughandle also reimbursed our school district for the bus transportation costs for field trips organized and presented by Jughandle. This was made possible through Jughandle's grants received from the State Department of Fish and Game.

For the past three years, Jughandle organized a Water, Watersheds and Wetlands series of lessons for every student at the school - approximately 440 to 480 students per year. Jughandle organized a collaborative teaching team including Americorps Watershed Stewards volunteers, 4-H project leader; and Fort Bragg Middle School students. For six weeks, five days a week, grade appropriate watershed and wetlands lessons were presented to every class at Redwood. We have had eight classes of 20 students each for Kindergarten, eight for first grade and eight for second grade. Feedback from teachers and students has been that these lessons are extremely well-received.

Jughandle Nature Center is an important educational resource for the Mendocino coastal area. This site enhancement project will greatly benefit the community and our students. I strongly urge the Coastal Conservancy to support the project with necessary funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. Champagne". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mary K. Champagne
Principal



April 4, 2007

California Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Karyn Gear
North Coast Program Manager
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Board of Directors enthusiastically supports Jug Handle Nature Center's proposal to obtain funding for improvements to the campground, trails and teaching facilities.

Jug Handle Nature Center has provided the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District space and opportunity to provide a summer nature camp for children every summer for over 25 years. 2,500 children have attended this camp, with a minimum of 60 participants and some years serving up to 112 children in the Jughandle nature day camp each year.

However, MCRPD's use of the campground for additional recreational activities is limited by the lack of facilities for serving people with special needs and lack of shelter in inclement weather conditions.

Currently there are no restroom facilities beyond two rudimentary outhouses at the campground and a cold water hose serves as sole hand washing facilities. The proposed outdoor teaching shelter would be a wonderful addition for the participants to take cover on wet weather days. The bunk tent cabins also proposed for the campground would be a major improvement for group camping nights.

MCRPD would likely request the use of the campground even more if there were additional facilities, such as restrooms, showers and improved handicap access.

We are thankful to have a site provided for our children to use year after year. The proposed improvements will greatly increase the amenities of the camp, which will make the experience more enjoyable and accessible to all.

We highly recommend your consideration for funding this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Beth Pine
District Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Pine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

cc: MCRPD Board of Directors



MENDOCINO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

**890 North Bush Street, Room 20
Ukiah, California 95482
(707) 463-4589 fax (707) 463-4643**

Karyn Gear
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, Ca. 94612

March 8, 2007

Dear Ms. Gear:

The Mendocino County Water Agency strongly supports Jughandle Creek Nature Center's grant request for education and access improvements to the facility. The proposed project will increase sanitary facilities, upgrade and expand educational trails and create both an outdoor and an indoor classroom space which will greatly enhance Jughandle's ability to serve the public. The mission of the center is to teach stewardship of coastal land and water resources to people of all ages.

We are very supportive of educational activities occurring at Jughandle. Water Agency staff has attended several workshops and educational activities sponsored by Jughandle, including in-stream turbidity monitoring and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) training. We have also collaborated with Helene Chalfin to provide watershed education at Mendocino High's School of Natural Resources (SONAR) and we financially assisted Jughandle in providing additional watershed education to other coastal school districts.

We also have closely collaborated in hosting and participating in two large public events (Make A Splash Day!) in Ukiah and Fort Bragg. We are in the process of planning for two more similar events to be held this spring.

Having attended workshops at Jughandle, we are aware that the proposed improvements will greatly enhance education activities held there and will serve the greater community. In the interest of continuing to support watershed education provided by this facility, we urge the Coastal Conservancy to authorize funding for this important environmental education resource.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Slota".

Dennis Slota
Hydrologist
Mendocino County Water Agency